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### Bank Loan Aid Inaugurated for Montana State University Law Students

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FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

The Western Montana National Bank of Missoula, in cooperation with the Montana State University Law School, has inaugurated a loan program to help students complete their legal education.

Under the plan, bank loans will be available to students registered in the full-time program of the MSU Law School who have successfully completed one year of law, Dean Robert E. Sullivan said. The loans will be available over each of the last two years of law school and will be repayable over a five-year period, to commence four months following graduation from the Law School, he explained. The loans will be made for the purpose of paying University fees or other expenses and will not require collateral.

In lieu of collateral, the bank will maintain a substantial cash reserve, which has been deposited in a savings account by the Law School in accordance with the cooperative agreement.

The dean said the reserve account is made possible by contributions from prominent legal figures associated with the Law School in its formative years. Among the chief donors is A. N. Whitlock, first dean of the school. Dean Emeritus Whitlock, retired general counsel of the Milwaukee Railroad, lives in Lexington, Ky.

Donors include Howard Johnson and his wife Alice, both graduates of the University. Judge Johnson, a 1917 law graduate, served as chief justice of the Montana Supreme Court from 1938 to 1944. He is currently a member of the law firm of Johnson and Johnson in Butte.

The loan plan to provide additional financial resources for students seeking legal training has been aided by numerous contributions in smaller amounts by a host of Montana lawyers and friends and families of deceased graduates of the Law School, Dean Sullivan noted.

(more)



Dean Sullivan said of the plan, "This is a loan program and not a scholarship program. We are aware that scholarships attract an increasing number of law students, but we are also aware of the fact that scholarship funds always have been and probably always will be insufficient to take care of the need for financial assistance. Because of the availability of this program, we are sure that many deserving young people who want a legal education will come to the Montana State University Law School. It will mean the difference between being able to obtain a legal education or being forced to forego it. We realize that this is not a complete answer to the need for financial assistance to law students, but it is a valuable supplement to existing scholarship and loan programs."

James A. Hart, president of the Western Montana National Bank, said of the program: "The Western Montana National Bank of Missoula is delighted to participate in a development of this nature because it is one way of impressing upon young people the importance of responsibility and of assisting them to become respected and resourceful members of the community. As officers of the bank, we are all particularly interested because this is one means of encouraging young people to enter a profession for which there is a great need in Montana, and it should stimulate their continued interest in the state so that they may well remain here and become outstanding citizens of Montana."

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